

ZOO MANAGER*Class Definition*

Under administrative direction, plans, directs, and coordinates Zoo operations, including maintenance activities and the care of animals.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Zoo Manager is a division head responsible for the programs and operation of the Chaffee Zoological Gardens of Fresno. The incumbent is responsible for directing the maintenance of buildings and grounds, exhibit and care of animals, reptiles and birds, the selection, breeding, and trading of specimens, and the public relations and educational activities of the Zoo. This class is distinguished from Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director in that the incumbent of the latter establishes policies and directs the overall operations and functions of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. This is an unclassified position in which the incumbent serves at the will of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director.

Typical Tasks

(The incumbent may not be assigned all duties listed, nor do the examples cover all duties which may be assigned.)

Plans exhibits and arranges purchase, trade, and loan of mammals, reptiles, and birds.

Establishes, in consultation with the veterinarian, animal diets and policies for feeding and purchase of food; establishes methods of cleaning cages to protect keepers and animals.

Directs and participates actively in Zoo community relations to increase community interest, support, and participation.

Prepares articles and speeches on Zoo activities; speaks before various groups; participates actively in professional organizations and associations.

Coordinates animal care with consulting veterinarian.

Develops short- and long-term plans for the renovation of existing exhibits and development of new exhibits; confers with Department Director on Zoo developments and gives technical advice on construction of grounds and facilities.

Keeps medical and other records of Zoo animals and birds, including birthdate, sickness, breeding, etc.

Prepares annual Zoo operating and capital improvement budgets.

Meets and confers with the Fresno Zoological Society on fund-raising special events; plans and coordinates programs and activities with the Society.

Performs related duties as required.

Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills

Thorough knowledge of all regulatory agencies, legislation, and other rules and regulations concerning zoos and care of animals.

Considerable knowledge of custodial care, behavioral habits, dietary needs, and breeding requirements of a variety of exotic and undomesticated animals, reptiles, and birds.

Considerable knowledge of the principles and practices of municipal government and public administration, including budgetary and fiscal operations and controls.

Knowledge of current literature, recent developments, and sources of information on zoo exhibit design, animal care, conservation, and preservation.

Knowledge of the maintenance of zoo exhibits and facilities.

Ability to detect illness, injury, and other disorders in wildlife and to assist a veterinarian in their treatment.

Ability to establish and maintain cooperative relationships with representatives of government agencies, private agencies, and the general public.

Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, to a varied audience.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Zoology, Biology, or other applicable life science major, and five years of professional experience as a director or an assistant of a zoo in the public or private sector.

Necessary Special Requirement

Possession of a valid California Driver's License at time of appointment.

APPROVED: _____

Director of Personnel

DATE: _____

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